



Trip Summary

SECTION: SALMON RIVER – HAMMER CREEK TO HELLER BAR

DIFFICULTY: CLASS II-III

AGES: 12 YEARS OLD AND UP

SEASON: AUGUST (CALL FOR AVAILABLE LAUNCH DATES)

LENGTH: 5 DAYS, 53 MILES

PRICE: \$1895

At 425 miles in length, the Salmon River is the longest free flowing, undammed river in the Lower 48. We run the 53-mile section of this river known as the Lower Gorge. Exquisite geologic formations are revealed as the water flows through four spectacular canyons: Green, Cougar, Snow Hole, and Blue Canyon. Large white sand beaches figure prominently on the semi-arid riverscape. They provide the ideal setting for excellent camping, relaxation, and the river trip of a lifetime. The pool drop characteristic of the Salmon River makes it a perfect river for beginner to intermediate kayakers. The pools are long, calm stretches punctuated by steep drops, where we find our whitewater. These pools give us time to prepare for the upcoming whitewater, practice our skills, swim, relax, enjoy the beautiful surroundings, and have stimulating conversations with our boat mates. The drops provide us with exhilarating whitewater, followed by calm pools that safely catch us after we run through the rapids. This creates a very forgiving and fun place to kayak. The warm waters also allow us to swim long stretches of the river.



General Trip Itinerary

EXACT CAMP LOCATIONS AND DAILY RIVER MILEAGE MAY VARY WITH WATER LEVELS AND RIVER CONDITIONS.

Arrival Day, the day before your scheduled launch date: Arrive at the Quality Inn in Clarkston, WA. There is an airport shuttle available from the Lewiston airport. Pre-trip meeting at 6PM in the Quality Inn lounge, where you will meet your Wet Planet instructors. Dinner is not included.

Day 1, Launch/River Day: Have breakfast at the Quality Inn, then depart for the Pine Bar launch on the Salmon River. We'll spend the day warming up for the rapids downstream by practicing in the pool and eddy lines, as well as running Pine Bar Rapid. After a day of instruction and river running, arrive to your set-up camp. Relax at the river's edge on the white sand beaches while your guide team prepares a delicious, healthy dinner. In the evening, enjoy campfires (weather permitting), songs, and stories.

Day 2, River Day: Today, the river starts with easy rapids and a big water feel. You'll get a chance to find your rhythm while working with your instructors in the flat water and class II rapids. Depending on water levels, we may camp near Cliff Rapids to take advantage of a fun play wave.

Day 3, River Day: Experience bigger rapids and more fun play spots. You'll find rapids such as Pipe Line, Lorna's Lulu, and the Bungholes as we move toward Snow Hole Canyon. Located in this beautiful canyon is Snow Hole Rapid, where the river charges through powerful class III+ and IV waves and holes. Challenge your skills or feel-free to walk around the rapid before finishing the day at a beautiful large beach camp.

Day 4, River Day: After leaving Snow Hole Canyon, enjoy a mellower float on your way to Blue Canyon. This canyon is home to more great rapids, and you'll love flying right down the middle of ones like Sluice Box and Eye of the Needle. The lower end of this exciting canyon leads to the confluence with the Snake River. Camp at the confluence, in the same area where Native Americans previously traveled for vision quests.

Day 5, River/Take Out Day: With quite a bit of flat water between the confluence and the take-out, kayakers hop in the rafts and enjoy an easy ride through this beautiful, remote stretch of river. At the take-out, you'll be shuttled back to the Quality Inn.

Packing List

Appropriate clothing on a multi-day river trip is important for both comfort and risk management. While on the river, we could experience warm sunny days, cold rainy days, or anything in between. We need to be prepared for all possibilities. When planning for your trip, try to use the “layering system”. By bringing clothing that can be worn under or on top of others, in layers, you will have the flexibility to adjust to a variety of weather conditions. Make sure that you have warm layers made of synthetic materials (not cotton), such as polypropylene, capilene, or wool. Cotton does not keep you warm when it is wet!

While we provide all group camping equipment and meals, you will need to provide clothing and personal gear for off the river and at camp. Below is a suggested packing list to use for your river expedition. We will provide you with a dry bag to protect your belongings from the water. Feel free to contact us at any time with packing questions. **Always be prepared for changing weather!**

For river travel, we will provide you with river clothing: wet suit, booties, paddle jacket; helmet and PFD (personal flotation device)

- Sleeping bag (these can be rented for \$25, just let us know)
- Sleeping pad
- One pair of shorts for camp and hiking
- One or two t-shirts
- Rain jacket & pants
- One set long-sleeved light clothes (for sun and/or camp)
- Pants for camp (can be same as above)
- Synthetic thermal underwear layers (top & bottom)
- Fleece or pile top & bottom for camp (top can be pullover or jacket)
- Swimsuit
- One pair lightweight hiking shoes (for off river in good weather)
- Toilet articles (biodegradable soap)
- Wool or polypro/capilene/fleece socks (stay away from cotton)
- Shade hat/visor (baseball cap)
- Warm hat and gloves for camp
- Plastic bags for wet/dirty clothing
- Sunblock/moisturizing lotion
- Chapstick with SPF
- Insect repellent
- Sunglasses with securing strap
- Water bottle with securing strap (1 liter minimum, more if hiking)
- Flashlight/small headlamp & extra batteries
- Personal medications
- Toiletries/small towel, etc.

Optional Items: Binoculars, diary, sketchbook, a good paperback book, small daypack or fanny pack for hikes, camera, paddling jacket & pants, small travel pillow, musical instrument. **Liquor, beer, and or wine: you will need to provide your own alcoholic beverages!**

All on-river meals, kayaking gear and camping equipment are provided!

Getting There

Our Salmon River trip begins and ends at the Quality Inn in Clarkston, WA. Please make reservations. The closest airport to Clarkston is in Lewiston, Idaho. If flying to Lewiston, the airport will provide a free shuttle service to the hotel. If you are driving yourself, please follow the directions as described below.

It is possible to catch a ride from Wet Planet to the start point of the trip on the afternoon before the launch date, and back to Wet Planet on the last river day. If you plan on riding out to Clarkston with Wet Planet, the meeting time is 3 pm at the Wet Planet Headquarters on the arrival day (the day before your launch date). If you are driving yourself, please follow the directions as described below.

From Portland/Seattle

(From Seattle, take I-5 South to Portland)

Take I-84 East towards The Dalles for 186 miles. Take exit 179 for I-82 West towards Hermiston/Umatilla. Take I-82 West for 9 miles to exit 1 for US-395 S/US-730 S towards Irrigon/Umatilla. Turn right onto 395 S/ US-730 E/6th St. Continue onto US-730 E for 25.2 miles, entering Washington. Merge onto US-12 E for 49.4 miles. Turn right onto US-12 E/Preston Ave for 33 miles. Make a slight right to stay on US-12 E for 42.2 miles. Turn left onto 13th St. Turn right onto Port Dr. Allow 6 hours drive time.

From Boise

Take I-84 West towards Nampa/Ontario for 52.4 miles, entering Oregon. Take exit 371 for OR-201 towards US-20/US-26/Weiser Vale. Turn left onto OR-201 N for 13.3 miles. Turn right onto US-95 Spur N for 2.8 miles, entering Idaho. Turn left onto E Idaho St/E Main St. Turn left onto US 95 N/ E 7th St/ Rte 95 N for 29.8 miles. Turn right onto US-95 N/ E Central Blvd/ Rte 95 N for 46.6 miles. Make a slight left onto US-95 N/ N Norris Ave/ Rte 95 N for 76.3 miles. Turn left onto Johnston Rd for 2.2 miles. Turn left onto US-95 N/ Rte 95 N for 67.4 miles. Continue onto US-12 W for 1.8 miles. Turn right onto 18th St. Continue onto Dike Bypass for 1.6 miles. Turn left onto D St. D St becomes 1st St. Continue onto US-12 W/ Main St, entering Washington. Slight right onto 1st St/ Confluence Way. Turn left onto Fair St. Turn right onto 5th St. Turn left onto Port Dr. Allow 6 hours drive time.